



# APPLE BITES

## TEACHING IS A CALLING

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

FALL 2006

### West Tennessee Director Leads Charge on Teaching and Learning

Former superintendent Susan Bunch has taken the reins as Assistant Commissioner for Teaching and Learning after 32 years with Henderson County Schools. Ms. Bunch joined the Department in September with a laundry list of innovative plans to improve service to teachers and other local schools officials. Her spirit and enthusiasm already has exuded tangible invigorating energy to those around her.

Bunch graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville in 1974 before earning a Masters Degree in Elementary Education from Memphis State University. She pursued additional training in Administration and Supervision and Science Education from Memphis State and University of Tennessee-Martin. While working for Henderson County Schools, Bunch was a state finalist for Teacher of the Year in 1983 and was awarded Tennessee Supervisor of the Year in 2003. For 13 years, she has also taught as an adjunct professor at UT-Martin, Jackson State Community College, University of Memphis and Union University.

Look for more information on Teaching and Learning initiatives in the winter edition of *Apple Bites*.

### Contact Apple Bites

*Apple Bites* has created a new way for teachers and other district personnel to contact us. Feedback and submissions may be sent via email to [tned.newsletter@state.tn.us](mailto:tned.newsletter@state.tn.us).

Tennessee teachers, this is YOUR newsletter. We want it to be useful, relevant and worth your time.

Please let us hear from you.



Schools across Tennessee celebrated National School Lunch Week in October, spotlighting the importance of a healthy diet to learning. The National School Lunch program provides meals to more than 600,000 students each day. Pictured above, Westwood Elementary teacher Cathy Law draws cheers dressed as Rocco Taco. Westwood is a Williamson County school in Fairview, TN.

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## Tennessee Rewards Outstanding Leaders

*Each state awardee represents hundreds of exceptional educators whose efforts positively impact the lives of individual students and the quality of life in Tennessee.* - Lana Seivers



Metro Nashville Public Schools teacher **Susanne Frensley**, with Education Commissioner Lana Seivers, is the 2007 Tennessee Teacher of the Year. Ms. Frensley teaches AP Art History, World Geography and Art Survey at Hillsboro High School. Among

her accomplishments is a track record of 95 percent of her students passing the AP Art History exam for the last nine years. She will represent teachers in Tennessee at events across the state and the nation, including the National Teacher of the Year Conference in Washington, D.C.

McMinn County Director of Schools **John Forgety** is Tennessee's 2007 Superintendent of the Year, an honor awarded by the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents in September. Forgety is back home after serving in Iraq with the 278th Regimental Combat Team of McMinn



County. While abroad, Forgety and his wife solicited donations for Iraqi school children and their families from their community at home. Forgety has been superintendent of McMinn County Schools since 1992.

Memphis City Schools principal **Catherine Battle**, with Superintendent Carol Johnson, is Tennessee's 2007 Principal of the Year. Battle, principal of Snowden School (K-8) since 1992, was also the first recipient of the Sara L. Lewis Principal of the Year award from Memphis City Schools in 2004-05. She has worked for Memphis City Schools since 1978 and trained many of the district's principals. Battle credits the teachers at Snowden with the school's success.



Tennessee's 2007 Supervisor of the Year is **Nancy Wagner**, King'sport City Schools' assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction. Prior to joining KCS in 2001, Wagner was principal of Science Hill High School and later the curriculum supervisor for Johnson City Schools. KCS Superintendent Richard Kitzmiller credits Wagner with leading literacy and math initiatives that have helped raised student achievement in the district.







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*Renee Borden - Memphis City  
Natalie Elder - Hamilton County  
Lisa Light - Knox County*

A.B. Hill Elementary teacher Renee Borden was the first of three Tennessee educators this year to receive a National Educator Award from the Milken Family Foundation during a surprise ceremony Oct. 12. Two weeks later, Hardy Elementary principal Natalie Elder and Lonsdale Elementary principal Lisa Light too got the news. They are among roughly 80 education professionals this year to receive a \$25,000 award. The awards program seeks to raise appreciation for and interest in the teaching profession. Borden, Elder and Light will travel to Los Angeles in April for the Foundation's National Education Conference with fellow award recipients from across the nation.

*Milken  
Family Foundation  
Awards  
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tors Receive \$25,000  
Surprise and  
National Educator  
Award*

## Coaching Teachers To Victory

Representatives from 11 Tennessee school systems are participating in the National Coaches Academy training that seeks to strengthen professional development within a school. The National Staff Development Council will host three seminars throughout the 2006-07 school to teach different models of school-based coaching and equip participants with intervention strategies to pass on to teachers in their school.

Coaches may develop expertise in target areas such as reading, math or technology. Whatever the focus for a particular school, the intended benefit is to provide exceptional instructional guidance to teachers on a daily basis. Tennessee already employs 57 technology coaches through a Title II technology grant and 74 reading coaches in Reading First Schools.

Sixteen individuals from the following school systems are participating in this initiative: Blount County, Cheatham County, Henderson County, Johnson City, Johnson County, Lebanon Special, Lincoln County, Murfreesboro City, Rutherford County, Trousdale County and Wilson County. For more information, visit <http://www.nsdc.org/library/schoolbased.cfm>.

**Tennessee Hosts  
National Staff Development Council's  
Annual Conference**

**What: Staging Noteworthy Performance**

**Where: Opryland Hotel, Nashville**

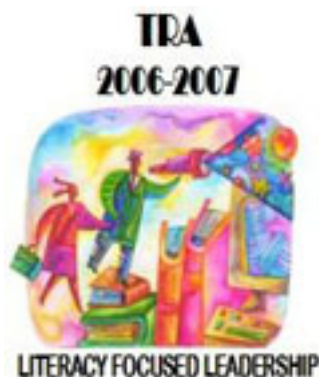
**When: December 2 - 6**

**Who: teachers, principals, school board members, administrators and university personnel**

**Info: NSDC's goal is for teachers in all schools to have access to high quality staff development on a daily basis. The conference will provide strategies for helping all students achieve academically and connect attendees with a professional network of peers with which to grow and share. For more information, visit [www.nsdc.org/conference06/welcome/hostletter.cfm](http://www.nsdc.org/conference06/welcome/hostletter.cfm).**



## Fall Professional Development Events



“Several national leaders have coined reading as ‘the new civil right in America,’ noting that if you can’t read, it is hard to access the greatness of the American dream” (“Seven Keys to Excellence,” 2003).

The Tennessee Reading Association (TRA) will hold its annual conference in Franklin November 12-14 at the Embassy Suites. For the past 32 years, TRA has promoted literacy among all segments of society. This year’s conference will feature esteemed guests such as award-winning author/illustrator Janet Stevens, whose works include “The Dish Ran Away with the Spoon,” and International Reading Association President Dr. Timothy Shanahan. The conference is for administrators, teachers, instructional assistants, parents and college educators working to promote improvement in reading. If you fall under any of these categories, we encourage you to attend the 33rd annual TRA Conference. For more information, visit [www.traconference.org/](http://www.traconference.org/).

### Tennessee Seeking Leaders of Change

Middle and high school educators and district leaders are invited to take the lead in building a school culture with high performance standards. The Second Annual High Schools That Work Best Practices Conference is designed to help educators implement research-based strategies and foster a positive school community. “Leading Change to Make Rigor, Relevance and Relationships a Reality” is the theme of this year’s conference.

Attendees may participate in the Best Strategies strand as an individual or the Leadership strand as a member of a team. Among the goals of the workshop are equipping educators to develop a challenging curriculum; allowing collaborative planning between academic and career-technical teachers; including parents and using a structured system for students to receive extra help.

While the conference focuses on the Making Middle Grades Work (MMGW) and High Schools That Work (HSTW) models, attendees do not have to work in an MMGW or HSTW school. The Southern Regional Education Board developed these school improvement models to prepare students for careers and further education by improving school curricula. More than 1,200 schools nationwide have embraced this SREB approach to school reform.

### Details at a Glance

**WHAT:** Second Annual High Schools That Work Best Practices Conference

**WHO:** teachers, school administrators, supervisors, CTE directors, counselors, community leaders

**WHERE:** Hotel Preston, Nashville

**WHEN:** Sunday, Nov. 6 - Tuesday, Nov. 7

**HOW:** Visit <http://www.mtsu.edu/~voced/hstwfall06.htm> to register. Site includes information on conference schedule, costs and hotel information. Fees vary by participation level and are due October 29 to Career and Technical Education, MTSU, P.O. Box 46, Murfreesboro, TN, 37132.

**DETAILS:** For additional questions, contact Gracie Lewis at (615) 532-2834 or [gracie.y.lewis@state.tn.us](mailto:gracie.y.lewis@state.tn.us).



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## Governor's Education Agenda

**Graduation Rate Plan** - In September, Governor Bredesen announced changes he hopes will help more Tennesseans graduate from high school. A dedicated position in each of Tennessee's 400 high schools will work to return chronically absent students to school by providing necessary resources and intervention. Second, every Tennessee student will take ACT's EXPLORE and PLAN assessments, administered in 8th and 10th grades respectively, to allow educators to identify early where knowledge gaps lie and help remediate them. Finally, Governor Bredesen has proposed the state pay the vast majority of expenses for community college for any student earning a 19 or higher on the ACT.

**Math and Science Residential High School** - In October, Governor Bredesen revealed new details about the new Math and Science High School to be spearheaded by the University of Tennessee. The school will operate its initial year in Knoxville on the campus of the Tennessee School for the Deaf. There students will be able to take advantage of resources provided by nearby University of Tennessee-Knoxville and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The residential high school is slated to open in the fall of 2007 with approximately 25 high school juniors and seniors. Students will take college-level courses and participate in apprenticeships while living in the small group cottages on TSD's campus.

### ***Hats Off to Tennessee's Heroes in Education!***

The PTO of a Nashville elementary school was named PTO of the Year by *PTO Today Magazine* and will receive \$8,000 in prizes. Hattie Cotton Elementary's 400-plus member PTO will receive \$3,000 in school supplies and the remainder in cash to be used for field trips.

- Anderson County Schools' Scotty Herrell won the 2006 Unsung Heroes Award by ING U.S. Financial Services for the service-learning work he has done with students at Clinton Middle School. Under the name Extreme Makeover: Middle School Edition, Herrell and roughly 200 students have remodeled homes, done landscaping, fed the homeless and held food drives for families in Appalachia. The group collected 15,000 pounds of food and hundreds of boxes of hygiene items for victims of Hurricane Katrina.
- Memphis City Schools Spanish teacher Myra Govea de Arce was one of 51 teachers to receive the American Star of Teaching Award from the U.S. Department of Education. She teaches at Snowden School.
- Metro Nashville Public Schools received \$1.8 million to increase student participation in AP classes and provide training for teachers. Six high schools and several middle schools in the system will benefit from the grant. MNPS was one of 25 recipients nationwide.



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## *Who are Your Field Service Center Reps and What Do They Do?*

In 2003, the Department reinstated the Department's use of regional field service centers (FSC) to provide a local, service-oriented presence to work with area school systems. While staff in these FSCs work primarily with system and building administrators, other school employees are also invited to use them as a closer-to-home resource. The nine FSCs employ consultants for areas including No Child Left Behind, Pre-K, Special Education, Career Technical Education, Fiscal Services, Food/Nutrition, Reading First and compliance issues.

FSCs also house an Intervention Team available to work with target schools that have not made adequate yearly progress (AYP) for one year. While Exemplary Educators work with schools identified as High Priority under NCLB, these Intervention Teams work with target schools to keep them from becoming High Priority. Any target school may receive aid from the regional Intervention Team once an agreement has been signed between the school system and the FSC. Members of this team undergo training to advise a school in the area that caused the school to miss AYP.

What do they do for the target school?

- Help with the development and revision of the school improvement plan (SIP)
- Stress the utilization of the Blueprint for Learning
- Help school staff interpret and use test data, including TVAAS results
- Provide materials and professional development

in the school's areas of need

If you work in a target school being assisted by an Intervention Team, introduce yourself to the FSC representative and ask any questions you may have about the plan for your school.

**Any school, regardless of its status, may request assistance from the local FSC.** For example, the Memphis/Shelby County FSC has conducted special education trainings on inclusion and modification strategies for regular classroom teachers. An FSC might also work

<u>FSC</u>	<u>PH</u>	<u>FAX</u>
Memphis/Shelby: <i>University of Memphis, Scales Hall</i>	(901) 678-5685	(901) 678-1342
Southwest: <i>314 East Main Street</i>	(731) 927-8787	(731) 422-1406
Northwest: <i>UT-Martin, Clement Hall</i>	(731) 881-7565	(731) 881-5686
Mid-Cumberland: <i>1256 Foster Avenue</i>	(615) 532-3269	(615) 255-7941
South Central: <i>2488-B Plus Park Drive</i>	(931) 380-5275	(931) 380-3623
Upper Cumberland: <i>TN Tech University</i>	(931) 526-1870	(931) 526-5693
Southeast: <i>3535 Adkisson Drive</i>	(423) 614-8755	(423) 614-8759
East TN: <i>2761 Island Home Blvd</i>	(865) 594-6044	(865) 594-5242
First TN: <i>ETSU, Rogers-Stout Hall</i>	(423) 434-6490	(423) 434-6495

with a school on its SIP, answering questions and making modifications. As a teacher, you also may draw upon the expertise available at your local FSC.

*\* Thank you to First Tennessee FSC Director Ted Beach, Northwest FSC Director Cliff Sturdivant and Memphis/Shelby FSC Director Yvonne Allen for contributing information to this article.*





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## WANTED:

## A FEW GOOD PHOTOS

*Teacher Magazine* is soliciting photos that capture learning in action, and so are we! What better way to create a clear picture of the excellence in Tennessee education than with the click of a shutter? Photos submitted to the Tennessee Department of Education may be used in future editions of *Apple Bites* or in other materials used to depict what's happening in schools across the state. Photos intended for the Department may be emailed to [tned.newsletter@state.tn.us](mailto:tned.newsletter@state.tn.us). Please include a brief description of what is depicted in the photo. *Teacher Magazine* is accepting photos to [teachermagazine@gmail.com](mailto:teachermagazine@gmail.com). Their June 6 article requests emails have no more than one photo attached at a time and that the photos be no more than 12 months old.

## Bradley County Teacher in *USA Today*

Bradley County teacher Luajean Bryant, a math teacher at Walker Valley High School, was among 20 teachers featured in *USA Today* on its All-USA Teacher Team for 2006-2007. Ms. Bryant received a \$500 personal award, a \$2,000 award for the school and a trophy. She and her class will be featured in an individual article later this year.

## SCIENCE/MATH CURRICULUM SEMINAR

WHAT: SEMINAR ON CURRICULUM MATERIALS BASED UPON NCES AND NATIONAL COUNCIL OF MATHEMATICS STANDARDS

WHO: TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS

WHEN: NOV. 30 - DEC. 1, 8 AM - 4:30 PM

WHERE: DOUBLETREE HOTEL, NASHVILLE

INFO: SPONSORED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND THE TENNESSEE MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION CENTER AT MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY. REGISTRATION DUE NOV. 1. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT JUDY CARTER AT (615) 904-8573 OR [JCARTER@MTSU.EDU](mailto:JCARTER@MTSU.EDU).

# TECHNO TUNE-UP

## CAREER TECHNICAL STUDENTS TACKLE AUTOMOTIVES ONLINE

A longtime program to prepare students for careers in automotive repair and service has moved to high-tech delivery. The state's Career and Technical Education division is incorporating online courses, CD instruction and a learning management system into the delivery of its automotive curriculum.

Tennessee is the first state in the nation to provide this online and CD-based curriculum to students in every secondary automotive technology program. The new capability provides instructors the freedom to work one-on-one with students who need extra help while allowing learning to continue for the rest of the class.

Tennessee's division of Career and Technical Education is working to raise the bar for student proficiency so students graduate prepared and competent to become productive automotive repair professionals. Part of this effort is ensuring schools offering these automotive technology programs meet the requirements for National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation certification. Roughly 150 high schools offer automotive programs supported by the state's Career and Technical Education division.